



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 1, 2010

Contact:

Austin Carter
Public Information Officer
(951) 826-5231

Wi-Fi users! Start your search engines!

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside Wi-Fi users can make a minor adjustment to keep using Riverside's free network.

The city is now managing and operating the municipal Wi-Fi network with a new Wi-Fi operator, US Internet, starting at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Residents should change their computer service set identifier, or SSID, setting from ATTMETROFREE to SmartRiverside to continue to use the free Wi-Fi.

The City Council recently approved the change in Wi-Fi operations from AT&T to US Internet. US Internet will have the contract for the next five years.

The city partnered with AT&T in 2007 to build and sustain a free Internet access network for residents. The city will retain the assets and equipment associated with the Wi-Fi system and worked closely with AT&T to support a smooth transition, said Steve Reneker, the city's chief information officer.

The city has also applied for federal economic stimulus grants to expand coverage across Riverside.

Wi-Fi coverage has spread since the program began three years ago. Many new users are graduates of the city's Digital Inclusion Program. Families with incomes less than \$45,000 can register for the program, which includes training in addition to a free refurbished PC, Microsoft Office software and a wireless access device through SmartRiverside. More than 4,000 city residents are graduates of the program.

For more information, go to www.smartriverside.org, or call the city's call center at (951) 826-5311.

###